

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 EA-10 ACDA-12 AID-05 EB-08 IGA-02 MCE-00  
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7623

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 10178

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR PE EC  
SUBJ: MORALES BERMUDEZ LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER: ARMS AND  
ECUADOREAN ACCESS TO THE AMAZON

REF: (A) STATE 2810; (B) LIMA 10148; (C) QUITO 7475;  
(D) LIMA 9629

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND I, DURING OUR NOVEMBER 17 MEETING, DISCUSSED SEVERAL OF THE THEMES TOUCHED UPON IN THE MORALES BERMUDEZ LETTER. I ASKED HIM HOW HE SAW THE PROSPECTS FOR ARMS CONTROL AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF AYACUCHO. DE LA PUENTE REITERATED THAT PERU'S WEAPONS REQUIREMENTS HAVE NOW BEEN SATISFIED FOR "SEVEN OR EIGHT YEARS" UNLESS CHILE AND/OR ECUADOR FORCE NEW PERUVIAN PURCHASES. HE SAID THE GOP WOULD WELCOME AND FULLY SUPPORT A RENEWED EFFORT ALONG THE LINES OF THE AYUCUCHO DECLARATION OR ANY OTHER ATTEMPT AT ARMS CONTROL IN THE AREA. BUT, HE OBSERVED, PERU'S NEIGHBORS WOULD BE LIKELY TO DISREGARD A PERUVIAN INITIATIVE ON THIS SUBJECT AS "INSINCERE".

2. I CONCEDED THAT POINT AND ASKED HIM THEN WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD. THE MINISTER SAID COLOMBIA WOULD BE THE  
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BEST CHOICE. IN HIS VIEW CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ TENDS TO BE INDISCREET AND OVERBEARING IN HIS SELF-APPOINTED ROLE AS SPOKESMAN FOR LATIN AMERICA. (COMMENT: WE HAVE TRIED IN THE PAST WITHOUT MUCH SUCCESS TO INTEREST THE COLOMBIANS IN A PROJECT OF THIS KIND. BUT PERHAPS IT WOULD BE WORTH ANOTHER EFFORT NOW. A MORE SPECIFIC PROPOSAL FROM US MIGHT IN THE NEW CONDITIONS CREATED

BY THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AROUSE INTEREST IN BOGOTA. WE COULD, FOR EXAMPLE, ASK THE GOC IF IT WOULD BE WILLING TO CALL AND COORDINATE THE PREPARATIONS FOR AN ANDEAN CONFERENCE ON ARMS RESTRAINT TO WHICH THE US, OR BETTER THE UN, WOULD BE PREPARED TO OFFER DISCREET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. END COMMENT.)

3. DE LA PUENTE TOOK THE OCCASION TO COMPLAIN ONCE AGAIN ABOUT THE PURPORTED ECUADOREAN MILITARY BUILDUP AND THAT COUNTRY'S POWERFUL "LAND ARMY". HE EXPRESSED THE SUSPICION THAT ECUADOR AND CHILE ARE ACCUMULATING ARMS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES AND REVEALED THAT HE HAD CALLED IN THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO COMPLAIN INFORMALLY ABOUT THAT COUNTRY'S PEDDLING ARMS TO PERU'S NEIGHBORS. (COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THE MINISTER TAKES THIS KIND OF NONSENSE SERIOUSLY OR EXPECTS THAT WE WILL; BUT THEN PERUVIAN PARANOIA DOES RUN DEEP. END COMMENT.)

4. I ASKED HOW THE CONTACTS WITH ECUADOR ON THE BORDER AND AMAZONIAN ACCESS WERE PROCEEDING. DE LA PUENTE SAID THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WERE UNABLE TO AGREE ON THE LANGUAGE TO BE USED IN THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES. ON THE KEY POINTS OF THE RIO PROTOCOL AND ACCESS TO THE AMAZON, THE GOE WOULD NOT GO BEYOND A FORMULA THAT MERELY RECOGNIZED THAT THE COUNTRIES MAINTAIN CONTRASTING POSITIONS; CONFIDENTIAL

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I.E., THERE WOULD BE NO ACCEPTANCE, EVEN BY IMPLICATION, OF THE VALIDITY OF THE RIO PROTOCOL (SEE REF B, PARA 3). THE MINISTER STATED THAT SUCH LANGUAGE WOULD NOT PROVIDE A SUFFICIENT BASIS FOR REAL NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID HE DOUBTED THAT THE GOP WOULD BE ABLE TO SIGN ANYTHING WITH THE CURRENT GOE. THE LATTER, IN DE LA PUENTE'S VIEW, IS "TOO WEAK", TOO VULNERABLE TO POLITICAL PRESSURES. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, HE DID NOT WANT TO BREAK OFF THE DIALOGUE AND WAS THINKING OF SENDING AMBASSADOR WIELAND (UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS) TO QUITO FOR MORE TALKS.

5. COMMENT: THE MINISTER'S RECENT ENTHUSIASM FOR NEGOTIATING A SETTLEMENT WITH ECUADOR (REF D) SEEMS TO HAVE WANED MARKEDLY, PERHAPS AS THE FULL IMPORT OF HOW FAR APART THE TWO SIDES ARE HAS SUNK IN. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT ECUADOR WILL HAVE TO SCALE DOWN ITS DEMANDS SUBSTANTIALY IF SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO TAKE PLACE. END COMMENT.

6. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT THIS TELEGRAM TO OTHER INTERESTED POSTS ALONG WITH THE TEXT OF THE

MORALES BERMUDEZ LETTER.  
SHLAUDEMAM

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PBOR, PE, EC, US, (CARTER, JIMMY), (BERMUDEZ, MORALES)  
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